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Appl. No. : 09/913,799
Filed : December 31, 2001

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the Claims as follows. Insertions are shown underlined while deletions are ~~struck through~~.

1 (currently amended): A drink, which comprises desalted seawater to which water-soluble mineral components are added, wherein said water-soluble mineral components are magnesium and calcium obtained from seawater.

2 (canceled)

3 (currently amended): The drink as claimed in Claim ~~2~~1, wherein said ~~water-soluble mineral components~~magnesium and calcium are derived from the seawater from which said desalted seawater is obtained.

4 (canceled)

5 (currently amended): The drink as claimed in Claim-~~4~~1, wherein the weight ratio of magnesium to calcium (Mg/Ca) is adjusted to 4/1 to 1/3.

6 (previously presented): The drink as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the weight ratio of magnesium to calcium (Mg/Ca) is adjusted to 3/1.

7 (previously presented): The drink as claimed in Claim 1, which has a hardness of water of 100 to 3,000 as measured by the EDTA method.

8 (currently amended): The drink as claimed in Claim 7, wherein the hardness of water is ~~from~~ 250 or 1,000.

9 (previously presented): The drink as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising sugar or sour flavors for adjusting the taste.

10 (previously presented): The drink as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said seawater subjected to desalinization is surface water.

11 (previously presented): The drink as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said seawater subjected to desalinization is deep water.

12 (currently amended): The ~~drinks~~drink as claimed in Claim 11, wherein said seawater is deep water obtained at a depth greater than 100m.

13 (previously presented): The drink as claimed in Claim 12, wherein said seawater is deep water obtained at a depth of 200 to 500m.

14 (currently amended): A method for producing a drink, comprising the steps of:

collecting seawater;

separating the seawater into water and a concentrate by desalting; and

adding to said separated water ~~either one of (i) the concentrate or (ii) water-~~
soluble mineral components obtained from said concentrate or another seawater
concentrate, wherein said mineral components are magnesium and calcium.

15 (previously presented): The method for producing a drink as claimed in Claim 14,
wherein the seawater is deep water obtained at a depth greater than 100m.

16 (previously presented): The method for producing a drink as claimed in Claim 15,
wherein the seawater is deep water obtained at a depth of 200 to 500m.

17 (canceled)

18 (currently amended): The method for producing a drink as claimed in Claim
~~1714~~, wherein the magnesium and calcium are added to adjust the ~~drink's~~ weight ratio of
magnesium to calcium (Mg/Ca) to 4/1 to 1/3.

19 (currently amended): The method for producing a drink as claimed in Claim
~~1718~~, wherein the weight ratio of magnesium to calcium (Mg/Ca) is adjusted to 3/1.

20 (currently amended): The method for producing a drink as claimed in Claim 14,
wherein the desalination is conducted to adjust ~~the drink's~~ hardness of water to 100 to 3,000 as
measured by the EDTA method.

21 (currently amended): The method for producing a drink as claimed in Claim
~~1520~~, wherein the hardness of water is adjusted to 250 or 1,000.

22 (previously presented): The method for producing a drink as claimed in Claim 14,
wherein the seawater subjected to desalinization is surface water.